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Cultural Affairs Distinguished Lecture Series

Cultural Affairs Committee

9-25-2003

New Writing Series Fall 2003

University of Maine- English Department

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\$5,000

Dear Members of the Cultural Affairs Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the English Department and the National Poetry Foundation to request the Committee's assistance in continuing the New Writing Series established in the spring of 2000. The \$6000 I am requesting for the fall semester of 2003 represents less than one half of the Series' operating budget of approximately \$14,520 for the semester (please see attached budget). The remainder of the required funding will be provided by the English Department's Lloyd H. Elliott fund, with some financial help from other departments, programs, and offices.

The primary objectives of the New Writing Series are (i) to make contemporary poetry a valued part of the cultural life at the University of Maine, (ii) to broaden the University's local, national, and international reputation as a site of vibrant cultural exchange and creativity, and (iii) to cultivate links within the University as well as between the University and area secondary schools that foster imaginative approaches to thinking about contemporary poetry.

The Fall 2003 Series began on 23 September and comprises ten events involving eleven visiting writers. The lineup includes the African American poet Nathaniel Mackey; gay writer George Stanley; Canadian poets Erin Mouré and Kevin Davies; the German-born poet and translator Rosmarie Waldrop, Cleveland-based slam and performance poet Katie Daley; the West Coast Italian American Paul Vangelisti; Jewish anthologist, poet, and translator Jerome Rothenberg; the "language" poet Ron Silliman; and two emerging artists from New England/New York region, Drew Gardner and Marcella Durand. This semester I have emphasized the centrality of *translation* in the cultural life of our country and its relationship to the world community. With the exception of Gardner, Daley, and Silliman, every visitor has also done substantive work as a translator from another language.

NEW WRITING SERIES EVENT SCHEDULE & AUTHOR BIOS

23 September

Born in San Francisco in 1945, **Paul Vangelisti** has lived in Los Angeles since 1968. He is the author of some 20 books of poetry, as well as being a noted translator from the Italian. In 1981 he was awarded a Translation Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts, and in 1988 a Poetry Fellowship from the same Endowment. From 1971-1982 he was co-editor, with John McBride, of the literary magazine *Invisible City* and, from 1993-2002, edited *Ribot*, the annual publication of the College of Neglected Science. Currently, he is Chair of the Graduate Writing Program at Otis College of Art and Design and editor of the recently launched *New Review of Literature*. His *Embarrassment of Survival: Selected Poems, 1970-2000* appeared in 2001.

2 October

Erin Mouré was born in Calgary, Alberta, in 1955. She attended the University of Calgary and the University of British Columbia. She now lives in Montréal. Mouré worked as a technical writer for VIA Rail until recently; she now makes her living as a writer. In 1988, Mouré won the Governor General's Literary in the poetry category for her book *Furious*. She has published a half-dozen books with Anansi Press since 1979 and in 1994 Oxford University Press published *The Green Word: Selected Poems 1973-1992*. Her most recent book, *O Ciudadán*, appeared in 2002. In addition to her own writing, Mouré also translates from French, Spanish, Galician, and Portuguese.

9 October

New Jersey native **Drew Gardner** is a graduate of Bard, where he studied with John Ashbery and others. His first book, *Sugar Pill*, appeared from Krupskaya Press last year. He edits the magazine *Snare* from Brooklyn, where he lives and works. Gardner is also a musician who performs regularly on the East Coast with his Drew Gardner Trio.

9 October

Marcella Durand is the author of *City of Ports* (Situations Press) and *Western Capital Rhapsodies* (Faux Press). She is the Program Coordinator for the St. Mark's Poetry Project and the poetry editor for Erato Press. She has collaborated on prints, broadsides,

and sculptures with artists Richard O'Russa and Karoline Schleh. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *6ix*, *Outlet*, *Chain*, *Skanky Possum*, and *Situation*. She is presently at work on an anthology of contemporary French poetry slated for publication with Talisman House the year after next.

16 October

Jerome Rothenberg founded the discipline of ethnopoetics in the 1960s. He is the editors of numerous anthologies, including *Shaking the Pumpkin* (1972), *A Big Jewish Book* (1978), *Symposium of the Whole* (1981), and the two-volume *Poems for the Millennium*. He has translated from German, Aztec, Navajo, Hebrew, and Seneca, and often performs the "Horse Songs" of Navajo poet Frank Mitchell in his own readings. Among his many books of poetry are *Poems for the Game of Silence* (1971), *That Dada Strain* (1983), and *Book of Witness* (2001). He recently retired from the faculty at UCSD.

23 October

Katie Daley has performed her poetry and songs in Europe and America in theaters, junkyards, subway platforms and radio broadcasts. From 1999 to 2002, she appeared at the National Poetry Slam as a member of the Ithaca and Cleveland teams. These days she's touring her one-woman show, "Full Blast Alive: Voices from the Ruby Side," poetic monologues by female characters with a spicy medley of accents and attitudes who jam about jealousy, terrorism, and body image, among other things. Daley, who received an Individual Artists Fellowship from the Ohio Arts Council in 2003, has published her work in a variety of magazines including *The Seneca Review*, *Cleveland Magazine*, and *Art Crimes*. As a writing teacher, Daley specializes in de-mystifying the creative process and helping writers tune into the wilder side of their imaginations. She also coaches poets on spoken word performance and is dedicated to spreading the word through the voice as well as the pen.

23 October — *UMaine Faculty member, no financial support requested*

David Adams was born in Cleveland, Ohio and is a recidivist Midwesterner. He received an MFA from Bowling Green State University. He has spent most of his academic career teaching technical writing to engineering students, and is currently an assistant professor of English at the University of Maine, where he directs the new Engineering

Communication Project. His most recent book of poetry, *First Light*, was published in 2001. His poems have appeared lately in such journals as *Heartlands Today*, *Hiram Poetry Review* and *The North American Review*. He co-edited *Over West: Selected Poetry and Prose of Frederick Eckman* (National Poetry Foundation, 1999) and authored the *American National Biography* entry on Eckman. "September Songs," his suite of poems in remembrance of 9/11, is currently being set to music by the composer Margaret Brouwer.

30 October

Kevin Davies grew up on Vancouver Island and was an active member of the Kootenay School of Writing collective in the 1980s. He move to New York City in the early 1990s and has worked there as a teacher and a financial proofreader. His first volume of poetry was *Pause Button* (1991). His second book, *Comp.*, won the Poetry Center Book Award in 2000. Kevin Davies was born and raised on Vancouver Island.

30 October

A San Francisco native who participated in the so-called "Berkeley Renaissance" of the early 1960s, **George Stanley** emigrated to Canada in 1971 and has lived near Vancouver ever since. His books of poetry include *Gentle Northern Summer* and *At Andy's*. Earlier this year, Qua Books brought out his selected poems under the title *A Tall, Serious Girl* (co-edited by Kevin Davies and Larry Fagin).

06 November

Ron Silliman was born in Pasco, Washington, and raised in Albany, California. He attended San Francisco State University and the University of California at Berkeley. In the 1970s, Silliman worked as an organizer in prison and tenant movements, a lobbyist, and an editor of *Socialist Review*. In 1986 he edited the landmark anthology *In the American Tree* and in 1987 his critical volume *The New Sentence* was published. His volumes of poetry include *Ketjak*, *Tjanting*, *N/O*, *Lit*, and *Toner*. He currently lives in Pennsylvania and works for IBM. His poetry web log (or "blog") is among the most visited poetry-related websites in the country.

13 November

German-born Rosmarie Waldrop lives in Providence, Rhode Island, where she co-directs Burning Deck press with her husband Keith. She is the editor of *Série d'écriture* and *dichtung=*, journals of recent French and German poetry respectively. Her first book, *The Aggressive Ways of the Casual Stranger* was published in 1972 and since then she has published two dozen or so more, the best known of which include *The Reproduction of Profiles*, *A Key into the Language of America*, and the recent *Lavish Absence: Recalling and Rereading Edmond Jabès*.

18 November

Nathaniel Mackey was born in Miami and attended Princeton and Stanford. Editor of the literary magazine, *Hambone*, he has published numerous volumes of poetry and prose poetry, including *Eroding Witness* (1985), *Bedouin Hornbook* (1986), *The School of Udhra* (1993), and *Djbot Baghostus's Run* (1993). His critical volume *Discrepant Engagement: Dissonance, Cross-Culturality, and Experimental Writing* was published in 1993. He is the co-editor of the Library of America's monumental anthology of twentieth-century American poetry, two volumes of which have already appeared and two more of which are projected. He currently lives in Santa Cruz and teaches at UC Santa Cruz.

Writers Categorized by Interest/Focus

Feminist writers: Erin Mouré, Marcella Durand, Rosmarie Waldrop

Canadian writers: Erin Mouré, Kevin Davies, George Stanley

Jewish writers: Jerome Rothenberg

Gay and Lesbian writers: George Stanley, Erin Mouré

African American writers: Nathaniel Mackey

Editors: Paul Vangelisti, Drew Gardner, Marcella Durand, Ron Silliman, Rosmarie Waldrop, Nathaniel Mackey

Translators: Paul Vangelisti (Italian, French); Erin Mouré (French, Portuguese, Galician); Jerome Rothenberg (German, Seneca, Navajo, French, others); Rosmarie Waldrop (French, German)

Cultural Affairs Committee

including the

Distinguished Lecture Series

200 Alumni Hall

University of Maine

October 6, 2003

To: Steven Evans

From: Kathleen March & François Amar, Co-Chairs

On behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee, including the Distinguished Lecture Series, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that your proposal, Fall 2003 New Writing Series, has been awarded \$5,000.00. **Please contact Wanda Legere at 1-1516 before your event takes place to arrange for disbursement of award funds.** Note: Reception and University of Maine System payroll expenses are not reimbursable through this award.

Please note that acknowledgment of the *Cultural Affairs Committee* is required on all promotional materials. **A budget report must be submitted at the conclusion of your event and will be considered for future funding requests.** It is assumed that projects are completed within 12 months, therefore, any remaining balance will be returned to the Committee account for further distribution unless otherwise notified.

The Committee notes that it does not fund more than 50% of the amount for any given program. It also asks applicants to consider the most reasonable honoraria possible, as there may not be funding for the higher amounts.

We, the members of the Cultural Affairs Committee, congratulate you and wish you much success on this project.